

1 SJR70  
2 175880-2  
3 By Senator Ward  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 22-MAR-16

1 SJR70

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4 ENROLLED, SJR70,

5 ENCOURAGING THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
6 WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES IN JAILS.

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8 WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment  
9 services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental  
10 illnesses booked into jail each year; and

11 WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental  
12 illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the  
13 general public; and

14 WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with  
15 serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance  
16 use disorders; and

17 WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay  
18 longer in jail and, upon release, are at a higher risk of  
19 recidivism than people without these disorders; and

20 WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more  
21 on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions  
22 compared to those without these treatment needs; and

23 WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and  
24 services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle

1 through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic  
2 outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

3 WHEREAS, all counties throughout the State can take  
4 pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the  
5 health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and  
6 cost-effective ways; and

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alabama has  
8 passed legislation, created committees and task forces to  
9 assist with the Prison Reform effort; and

10 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Alabama  
11 encourages county partnerships in Alabama through the Stepping  
12 Up initiative, the National Association of Counties, the  
13 Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American  
14 Psychiatric Association Foundation who are all encouraging  
15 public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number  
16 of people with mental illnesses in jails; now therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
18 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby encourage the  
19 counties throughout Alabama to sign on to the Call to Action  
20 to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our  
21 county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other  
22 counties in the state and across the country to support a  
23 national initiative and encourage all county officials,  
24 employees, and residents to participate in the Stepping Up  
25 Initiative.

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President and Presiding Officer of  
the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Representa-  
tives

SJR70

Senate 12-APR-16

I hereby certify that the within Senate Joint  
Resolution originated in and was adopted by the Senate.

Patrick Harris  
Secretary

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House of Representatives  
Adopted: 19-APR-16

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By: Senator Ward